

From: Sagstetter, Philip W
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 12/11/01 2:52pm
Subject: Comment on microsoft settlement

I think the proposed Microsoft settlement is much too lenient.

Letting Microsoft give software to schools is like encouraging advertising. The schools then must buy into the restrictive Microsoft license scheme. The licenses require the schools to buy Microsoft product upgrades in the future.

I prefer the Red Hat Linux offer. Let Microsoft pay real money to schools. Let the schools use whatever computer software they want. For example, the schools may want to buy Apple computers for graphics training.

Another problem is the disclosure of APIs, interfaces, file formats, documentation, protocols, etc.

This should not be limited to Commercial Businesses, as defined by Microsoft.

All this info should also be disclosed to Non-profit organizations and Government Agencies.

The greatest potential future competition to the Microsoft monopoly is Linux.

Most Linux companies are non-profit, or could be defined that way by Microsoft.

Because Linux development is by volunteers,

Microsoft cannot undercut Linux companies into bankruptcy.

Linux and other Open Source or Free Software projects are the only serious prospective

competition for Microsoft in the future. They must be given fair access to information to compete.

Finally, Steve Satchell sounds like a well-qualified person to be on the three-person committee that will oversee Microsoft under the proposed settlement.

philip.w.sagstetter@lmco.com
8832 West Ida Place
Littleton CO 80123-2354